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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,566	01/23/2006	Hisamitsu Takagi	12088/042001	2114
22511	7590	10/10/2006	EXAMINER	
OSHA LIANG L.L.P. 1221 MCKINNEY STREET SUITE 2800 HOUSTON, TX 77010				KYLE, MICHAEL J
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3677		

DATE MAILED: 10/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/565,566	TAKAGI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michael J. Kyle	3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01232006.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the limitation “the turning axial line” in lines 2-3 of the claim. It is unclear to which feature this term refers as it has not been previously provided for in the claim. It appears to be an axis formed by first and second hinge members.
2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the limitation “one of confronting surfaces” in line 6 of the claim, and “the other of the confronting surfaces” in lines 11-12, because no “confronting surfaces” have been previously provided for in the claim.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato (U.S. Patent No. 7,027,294). Kato discloses a hinge apparatus comprising a first hinge member (15) and a second hinge member (10) turnably connected to the first hinge member, a movable member (12) arranged on a turning axial line of the first and second hinge member in such a manner as to be turnable about the turning axial line (the turning axial line is the axis of shaft 5) and movable in the direction of the turning axial line. Biasing means (11) are adapted to bias the movable member (12) toward the first hinge member (15). It is noted that when convex portion 16a

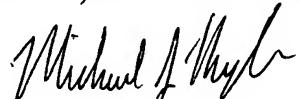
pushes the arresting portion 12a that the movable member 12 is urged, or biased, by surface 11 toward the first hinge member 15 (column 7, lines 34-35). A confronting surface (12a) of the movable member (12) has a plurality of end face cams (two projections 12a) extending in a peripheral direction about the turning axial line and equally spaced arranged in a manner as to extend in the direction of the turning axial line. A raised wall surface (bounding 12c) extends in the direction of the turning axial line and is disposed between the two end face cams (12a). Confronting surfaces (16) of the first hinge member (15) include a pair of abutment parts (16a) that are urged against the pair of end face cams (12a) and co-act therewith to convert biasing force to a turn biasing force for turning the second hinge member (10) through the movable member (12). A recess (see figures 15, 17, depression between projections 12a) is formed in the raised wall portion and arranged on an extension of the end face cam (12a).

5. With respect to claims 2 and 3, Kato discloses that one side surface of the recess forms part of the end face cam (12a). The end face cam has a length of at least 180 degrees in the peripheral direction (see figures 15 and 17, cam portion extend halfway around element 12, or 180 degrees).

### *Conclusion*

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following references are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to cam arrangement in hinges: Ohtsuka et al, Okuda, Huong, Kawamoto, Lu et al, Nakase et al, Hsu et al, and Gupte.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Kyle whose telephone number is 571-272-7057. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.
8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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Michael J. Kyle